Committee to study the entry of Foreign TV and Radio

1019. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have constituted a Committee to study the entry of foreign TV and Radio in India; and

(b) if so, the composition, terms, reference and other details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BRAODCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Telecast of Regional Programmes

1020. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether telecast of the region programmes on Doordarshan has been increased; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to telecast them throughout India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programmes of the regional language satellite channels can be viewed in all parts of the country with the help of an appropriate dish-antenna.

Availability of Doordarshan Programme in Middle East

1021. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan is making any efforts to reach Indian population presently living in the Middle East; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the revenue likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan is considering to introduce a 3 hours service in the morning from Monday to Friday primarily targetted to non-resident Indians living in the Midde East and other parts of Asia. The proposed service will consist of news, music, serials, film based programmes etc. Since the proposal is still in its formative stage, the details of the revenue likely to be earned cannot be indicated at present.

Discontinuation of "World this Week"

1022. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state.

(a) whether there is any proposal to discontinue telecasting of programme called 'World This Week';

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are aware that this programme telecast for the last year was very popular;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to launch any new programme in its place; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (e) The programme "The World This Week" was a popular programme and has been telecast for over five years in its current form. A new forming of the same is under consideration so as to provide the viewers with new and improved programming.

Urdu News Telecast in Karnataka

1023. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have introduced Urdu News Bulletin over Doordarshan in Karnataka recently;

(b) whether on the introduction of the Urdu News Bulletin, violence broke out in that State;

(c) if so, the reasons for introducing Urdu News Bulletin over Doordarshan in Karnataka;

(d) the steps taken to withdraw the same;

(e) is there any proposal to introduce News Bulletin in Punjabi over Delhi Doordarshan; and

(f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decision to commence telecast of the Urdu News Bulletin from Doordarshan Kendra, Bangalore from Oct., 2, 1994 was based on requests received from different quarters since 1993, and in pursuance of Govt.' policy of popularising Urdu.

(d) The telecast of the said news bulletin was suspended on Oct. 9, 1994.

(e) and (f) Doordarshan has no proposals at present, due to constrainsts of manpower, hardware, transmission time etc.

Setting up of New Transmitters in Maharashtra and Gujarat

1024 SHARIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total number of ongoing Doordarshan and All India Radio Centres' projects, pertaining to set-up of new transmitters in the State of Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively as on 30th June, 1994, district-wise;

(b) what is the number of those projects out of this which are lagging behind their original time schedule;

(c) whether the cost of these projects has been exalated due to delay in their execution;

(d) if so, what is the amount of this escalation;

(e) what is the number of projects out of them which are being executed with assistance from foreign financial institutions; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) As in statement (*See* below).